GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4976
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005
HIRING OF AIRCRAFT FOR HAJ PILGRIMS
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft used for to and fro journeys for Haj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia during 2004-05;

(b) the amount of fare charged per passenger;

(c) the names of the countries from which aircraft were hired alongwith number thereof during the said period;

(d) the number of Haj pilgrims who availed free travel facility during the said period; and

(e) the number of the officebearers/members of the Haj Committee who visited the Saudi Arabia on Government expenses during the said period alongwith details thereof?

Answer

- MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): Five aircraft were deployed by Air India/Indian Airlines for the Haj-2004-05 operations.

(b): The fare charged was Rs.12,000/- per adult, Rs.8,000/- per child and Rs.1,200/- per infant.

(c): The aircraft that were used to transport the haj pilgrims were from the existing fleet of Air India and Indian Airlines. In addition, Saudi Arabian airline also deployed aircraft for Haj operations.

(d): None. However, 81,022 pilgrims (including 48 Children and 236 infants) travelled to Jeddah on subsidised fares.

(e) Eighteen visits of the office bearers/members of the Haj Comittee of India have been made to Saudi Arabia during the year 2004-05 in connection with the Haj Arrangements. No Government money has been spent on these visits.